

U.S. Serial No. 10/707,136

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuo (US6767024). Kuo discloses a cable guide or block 651 mounted on a clamp ring 65 that is mounted to an end of an inner tube 52 of the suspension fork. In contrast, the housing of the cable guide of the present invention is formed directly on an outer surface of the crown that connects the fork legs to the steerer tube. Accordingly, Kuo fails to disclose a housing of a cable guide that is formed directly on an outer surface of a crown of a suspension system as claimed in the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 is felt to be patentable over Kuo.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected as claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Since claims 2 and 3 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of claim 1 as amended, they are felt to overcome the obviousness rejection in the same manner as amended claim 1.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuo alone. Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and therefore is felt to be patentable over Kuo in the same manner as claim 1. Further, the limitation "forged together" is used to describe physical characteristics of the product. These words are limitations on the structure of the invention, not words describing how the invention is made. See e.g., In re Garnero, 412 F.2d 276, 162 U.S.P.Q. 221 (C.C.P.A. 1969) (holding "interbonded by interfusion" to limit structure of the claimed composite and noting the terms such as "welded," "intermixed," "ground in place," "press fitted," and "etched" are capable of construction as structural limitations.) Accordingly, the limitation "forged together" is a structural limitation that should be given patentable weight. For the above reasons, the rejection of claim 4 should be withdrawn.

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This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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